

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

May 2025

Next Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, May 20, 2025

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Hello Everyone,

Please let me apologize for the brevity of this month's President's Letter's up front. My wife's and my medical issues came all at once and have been keeping us quite busy. I am hoping to get back to normal in June.

Our next OVH Monthly Breakfast get together will be on May 17th at 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM EDT at the Yorkshire Restaurant, 7537 Centreville Road, Manassas. We usually have 4 to 10 people that show up. I hope you can find the time to go.



The next regular OVH will be held on Tuesday, May 20th at 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM in the training room at the Buckhall VFD Hall, 7190 Yates Ford Road, Manassas.

The month of June is always the OVH's busiest month of the year with two major club events: First, The Manassas Tailgate Party (in lieu of Hamfest) on Saturday, June 7th from 7:00 AM until 1:00 PM EDT; and Second, the ARRL / OVH Field Day event will take place on June 28-29 at the Pavilion at the Nokesville Community Park.

Our Tailgate Party (in lieu of the Hamfest) 2025 will be June 7th from 7:00 AM until 1:00 PM EDT. It will be our 51st Hamfest type event. The OVH is still in need for volunteers for the Tailgate Party. Please contact Chairman John / KG4NXT, at kg4nxt@arrl.net or 703 789 6449 or use the signup sheet on the OVH web site. OVH Volunteers will need to be on site no later than 6 AM on June 7th. This is the club's signature event and is our main source of revenue.

The Virginia QSO Party Award Presentations will take place at our Tailgate Party.

Location information for the Tailgate Party: 9300 Signal View Drive, Manassas – this is

Cont'd on Page 3

Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Post Office Box 4293
Manassas, Virginia 20108-0728

OFFICERS

President:	Ken Brant	KN4DD	622-2638
Vice Pres:	Gil Thompson	KM4OZH	369-0431
Secretary:	John Heartney	KG4NXT	257-3566
Treasurer:	Jeff Porter	K9VEG	216-7734

DIRECTORS

Don (Butch) Blasdel	W4HJL	369-2877
Arthur Whittum	W1CRO	791-4330
Bob Zaepfel	K4HJF	282-2451
Theresa Heartney	KG4TVM	257-3566

WEEKLY FM REPEATER NET COORDINATOR

JOHN	KG4NXT	257-3566
Thurs - 8:00 PM Local Time		

TAILGATE (HAMFEST) 2024 - CHAIRMAN

Don	WA2SWX	597-3211
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FIELD DAY 2024 - CHAIRWOMAN

Cat	otohime.1978@gmail.com	KM4PBD	571-213-2179
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CLUB ROSTER / DATABASE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
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VE COORDINATOR

Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033
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CLUB EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

Open - volunteer needed!

ARES - EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

David Lane	KG4GIY	628-3868
See http://pwcares.org	email: kg4giy@arrl.net	

FINANCE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033
Don	WA2SWX	597-3211

GENERATORS

Byron	AK4XR	222-2095
Al	KB4BHB	368-4794

WARRIOR BIKE RIDE - CHAIRMAN

Andy	andy@gamponia.com	KJ4MTP	785-4651
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WEB COMMITTEE — W4OVH.NET + Twitter & Facebook

Kevin	W4RKU	540-445-5183
John	KG4NXT	257-3566
Ken	KN4DD	622-2638

Web Committee "help request" email: webmaster@w4ovh.net

EMAIL REFLECTOR — w4ovh@googlegroups.com

John	KG4NXT	257-3566
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MANASSAS CHRISTMAS PARADE - OVH COORDINATOR

George	K4GVT	791-5956
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LEGAL

Bob	K4HJF	282-2451
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MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Luther	WA3FMO	361-4885
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NEWSLETTER

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
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CHRISTMAS / YEAR END PARTY - CHAIRPERSON

Theresa.	KG4TVM	257-3566
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PROGRAMS

John	KG4NXT	257-3566
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QUARTERMASTER

Open - volunteer needed!

THURSDAY NIGHT NET / REPEATER CONTROLLERS

John	KG4NXT	257-3566
Ken	KE2N	753-8587
George	K4GVT	791-5956
Al	KB4BHB	368-4794
James	KQ4CAX	628-5186
David	KG4GIY	361-3042
Cat	KM4PBD	571-213-2179

W4OVH — TRUSTEE

Gil	KM4OZH	369-0431
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W4PVA — TRUSTEE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
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SCHOLARSHIP 2022

Ken	KN4DD	622-2638
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SUNSHINE

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
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TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Ken	KE2N	753-8587
Andy	KJ4MTP	786-4651
George	K4GVT	791-5956
Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Bob	K4HJF	335-1939
David	KG4GIY	628-3868
Gil	KM4OZH	369-0431

HISTORIAN

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
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All telephone numbers listed above are for Area Code 703 unless otherwise noted. This is the official monthly publication of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc., a §501(c)(3) organization, dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of Amateur Radio. Copyright © 2024 by the Ole Virginia Hams which holds its regular monthly meetings at 7:30 p.m. every third Tuesday at the Buckhall Volunteer Fire Department Station, 7190 Yates Ford Road, Manassas, Virginia except during the COVID pandemic (in 2020-2021) during which the monthly meetings were held online. The Newsletter will have login details for monthly online meetings if applicable. Members, prospective members and other interested persons are invited to attend without obligation. Local information can also be obtained through the OVH's FM repeaters on 146.970-, 224.660-, 442.200+ and 443.500+ MHz. Up to date information about OVH activities and its meetings is also available during the OVH's nets on its FM Repeater each Thursday night at 8:00 p.m. or through the OVH's web site at <http://w4ovh.net>. Articles in this newsletter may be reprinted if credit is given to the OVH ARC and other source(s) noted. Proposed materials for publication, classified ads, notes about specific errors, complaints or the like are solicited. Forward such items to the Newsletter Editor: paul@w4zb.com. Approx. Circ.: 170. Last Rev: 20240714

Cont'd from page 1

on the large lot located on Signal View Drive across the street from Signal Hill Park.

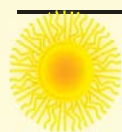
Our second big event in June will be the ARRL / OVH Field Day on June 28th and June 29th. This event takes place from 2 PM on Saturday, June 28th until 4:59 PM on Sunday the 29th at the Pavilion at the Nokesville Community Park. On the immediate Friday before Field Day (June 27th) we will be stringing the antenna wires and running power lines at the Nokesville Community Park, 12560 Aden Road, Nokesville. See, <https://www.visitpwc.com/listing/nokesville-park/1721/> for more about the Park.

Come and be "Radio Active". Or, if you would rather watch, you could see HF, VHF/UHF and Digital modes in action. With so much to explore, the opportunities are endless. If you are new to The Hobby, make sure you are there for setup; then stick around and try to make a few contacts. Don't worry if you are inexperienced, there are plenty of members around to help you get those first few contacts. As this is a family event, we are pleased to tell you the Saturday night dinner is back. This is a potluck dinner, so please bring a favorite dish to share and dinner will be around 5 PM. This will be a rain or shine event as we will be under the big pavilion. So come on out and get on the air!

A reminder to check in to the OVH's Thursday night VHF/UHF FM repeater net at 8 PM - details are on the OVH's web site: <https://w4ovh.net> This is a great way to stay in touch.

Questions, comments or war stories should be directed to my e-mail: kn4dd@arrl.net

73 Ken KN4DD



Sunshine Corner

Happy Birthday wishes to the following OVH club members with birthdays in May: John / KM4VCJ, David / KG4GIY, Bill / WA4FIC, Carl / KK4ZYX, Robert / KQ4PSE, Craig / WA3UFY, Roberto / KM4RIE, Susan / K3SSP, Bruce / KN4GDX, Don / WA2SWX, Jim / WI4EE, John / KG4NXT, Kenneth / KI4EOH and Lynn / KX4HR. Hope each of you have a great year ahead!



Sending get-well wishes to Art / W1CRO who has had to spend some time in the hospital. Hope he is back on his feet soon!

Ken / KN4DD is recovering from his second knee replacement, we hope to see him moving around better soon.

Happy Mother's Day to all our moms, hope you had a special day to celebrate.

The Final planning meeting for both the Tailgate and Field Day events will be a combination meeting for both events on Tuesday, May 27th at Sam & Joe's Pizza & Subs, 9784 Center Street, Manassas, starting at 6 pm if you are having dinner, 6:30 pm for the meeting. Check out the club calendar at w4ovh.net for more

Cont'd on page 4

Cont'd from page 3

information. All are invited to attend.

Reminders: OVH Tail Gate is Saturday, June 7th and Field Day weekend is June 28th and 29th.

Did you know that every single evening at 7:30 pm there is a traffic net called the NVTN? You can pass traffic messages or just check in and give a comment when net control gets to you. This repeater is on the mountaintop at Mt. Weather and has a huge footprint thru out the area. You can listen in and check in at 147.300, give it a try! John / KG4NXT is net control on Sunday nights.

Remember that the OVH Thursday night VHF and UHF FM net is at 8:00 pm each Thursday evening. It is a great way to keep up with current events and hear what other active OVH members are up to with their radios! Details are on the W4OVH.NET web site.

Please send me your news, good, not so good and ham related info!

73 Theresa / KG4TVM kg4tvm@hotmail.com Tel: 703-257-3566

Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting held on April 15, 2025:

OVH Vice President, Gil / KM4OZH, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm on April 15, 2025 in the training room at the Buckhall Volunteer Fire Department Station. After the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their names and callsigns.

The planned zoom presentation on Hamcation did not happen because the presenter's PC had a serious disk crash.

The Minutes of the March 18, 2025 meeting were approved.

Jeff / K9VEG gave the Treasurer's report and it was approved.

Luther . WA3FMO gave the membership report via email because of his recent operation. There was two vote-ins and they both were voted in: Joseph A. Schlatter / W4HH and Carl Knauss / KI8GM

ARES Report: No report this month.

Repeater Report: Ken KE2N gave the Repeater report. All repeaters are working. Three new DStar applications which were approved. The problem with the 220 machine continues.

Training Report by Mark / WA4KFZ: The VE session March 22 was held and 1 candidate passed after two tries. The May VE session is cancelled. At some point in 2025, VE exam have to be by computer and Mark has registered for Exam tools and needs other OVH VEs to do the same.

Cont'd on page 5

Cont'd from page 4

Field Day - Cat / KM4PBD held a Field Day planning meeting on April 9th. Bruce / KN4GDX discussed the educational project which will be balloon launch. Bruce is considering two balloons – one with APRS payload and the other with a WSPR payload.

Web Site Report by Ken / KN4DD: Attacks continue and the software defenses are holding. The Russians (according to IP addresses which can be easily spoofed) were the bad guys this month. Ken had a knee replacement operation on April 2 and John / KG4NXT will take over website duties April 2nd to April 7th.

Sunshine Report by Theresa / KG4TVM: Birthdays were mentioned, also mentioned that long time OVH member Ken / WB4ZOH has passed, also mentioned going to Thawfest.

Tailgate – John / KG4NXT: John and Theresa went to Thawfest to distribute flyers. There was a tailgate meeting on March 25th. More OVH volunteers are still needed. The porta potty has been secured. A Google Docs volunteer signup sheet has been posted and more volunteers are needed.

50/50 raffle was won by Theresa and she donated her winnings to the club.

Old Business: None

New Business: Bruce KN4GDX strongly recommended an online electronics magazine based in Australia called Silicon Chip. The website is <https://www.siliconchip.com.au/>

The meeting was then adjourned.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFESTS:

Friday - Sunday, May 16 - 18, 2025. Dayton Hamvention, Ohio. See hamvention.org for more info. This is one of the biggest Hamfest events worldwide and should be visited at least once!

Saturday, June 7, 2025 - 7:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The OVH's 2025 Tailgate Party in Manassas. See flyer later in this Newsletter, also info at. <https://w4ovh.net/welcome-to-manassas-hamfest>
This is a major annual event for the OVH.

OVH EVENTS

Tuesday, May 27, 2025 - Joint working meeting at 6:00 pm at Joe Pizza and Subs, 3798 Center Street, Manassas, for OVH's 2025 Tailgate event to be held on June 7, and for the OVH/ARRL Field Day event to be held on June 28 and June 29.

Saturday, June 28 through Sunday, June 29, 2025 - ARRL and OVH Field Day event put on by the OVH at the Nokesville Community Park. This is a major OVH family related event, with a club pot luck dinner on that Saturday evening. Save these dates now. More info to follow.

Cont'd on page 6

HAM RADIO OPERATING / CONTEST EVENTS

Also, see, <https://www.arrl.org/contests> for more information and details about many other contests on the ARRL maintained Contest web page, A more comprehensive, up-to-date, and long range planning contesting calendar with links to the rules for the various events is maintained at <https://contestcalendar.com> by WA7BNM. Another very good web site for info is NG3K.com. If you have the radio contesting bug or just want to find out how much is going on - a lot -, these are very good places to look!

PUBLIC EVENTS / PUBLIC SERVICE / ARES EVENTS

Check the online Calendar on the OVH's web site at W4OVH.NET for information about upcoming OVH related events. Also, check the online Calendar maintained by David / KG4GIY at <http://pwcared.org> for the latest PWC ARES updates. Complete direct contact information for David / KG4GIY also appears on page 2 of this Newsletter.

Recent Deer – Car Collision Event for Contester Gil / KM4OZH

Gil / KM4OZH is a national competitor in the ARRL VHF contest and a past statewide Plaque winner in the Virginia QSO Party (VAQP). The VAQP starts at 10 am on Saturday until midnight and then runs from 8 am to 8 pm on Sunday. Gil always plans his route in detail ahead of time to maximize his multipliers. Byron / AK4XR has been understudying Gil and following in a separate vehicle.

For Gil and Byron, things went as planned on Saturday at least initially. The plan was to grab some sleep at Gil's family farm and to continue the planned route on Sunday at 8 am. As they were driving at 1:00 am on Sunday with Gil in the lead, A DEER SUDDENLY APPEARED in the left part of the road. Gil applied the brakes and swerved to the right, but the deer did not stay put, instead it ran to Gil's right and COLLIDED into the left front of Gil's car. Byron saw the deer flying through the air after the collision. .

Here is the damage done by the deer:

1. Deer's nose broke part of the car's grill;
2. Deer's shoulder smashed the car's left headlight, turn signal and running light and broke Gil's antenna mast for his new 5/8 wave 2 meter antenna. This also buckled the hood and kinked the 2 m coax;
3. Deer's butt hit the fender and put a big dent in the quarter panel;
4. Deer's foot put a dent in the driver's door; and
5. Deer's shoulder broke the driver's side headlights and turn signal



After the collision, Gil and Byron decided to go home instead of continuing to Gil's family farm. Gil got 2.5 hours of sleep and woke up at 4:30 am to made repairs to the 2m antenna with hose clamps and spare coax. He then drove to Chester Gap in Rappahannock County to continue the contest, where Byron joined him.

Later, Gil noticed that his voltage was low. He suspected the alternator, but he did not want to open the hood because the deer had buckled it. So he got under the car and looked at the alternator. He noticed that one alternator brush was higher than the others. He removed the brush and resoldered it in its holder. Gil then got back on the road and back into the contest. When Andy / K1RA heard what had happened, he said "That's the Gil I know". As a result of this problem, Gil lost 2 1/2 hours and was unable to operate from Loudoun County, Fairfax County or Fairfax City, which cost multipliers as well as number of contacts.

It turned out that the voltage problem was also caused by the deer, not the alternator. The deer had broke the housing of the glow plug relay and water had gotten. The glow plugs draw 48 amps and the relay was not turning them off after the engine started because of water in the relay box and rain water had gotten on the circuit board.

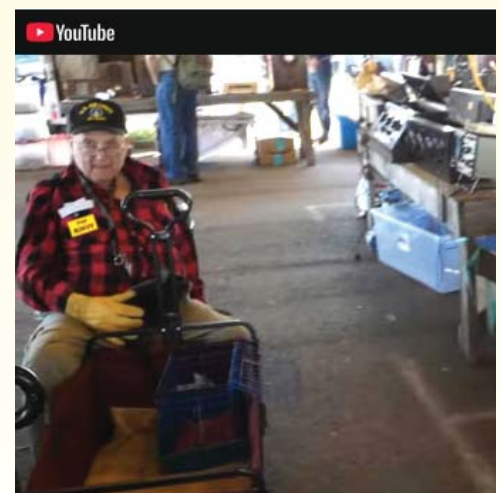
Despite all these problems, Gil got 79224 points and won his category in the VAQP and won the Single Operator Rover category. He will receive a plaque at our OVH tailgate. Byron turned in a very respectable 54150 points and was 3rd in the mobile category. We should also mention that Duane KK4BZ won the VAQP digital plaque.

Some Possibly Interesting or Useful Information

1. Bruce / KN4GDX recommends an online magazine about electronics based in Australia. Some of the content is "free", but you will need to pay for full access. <https://siliconchip.com.au/Issue/Browse/Issues>

2, Bill / AF4LL provided an interesting link item about listening to ID FM radio stations while flying commercially across US in an airliner at 30,000 feet plus. Go to: <https://radioworld.com/columns-and-views/the-fm-band-from-30000-feet-in-the-air> Interesting items from that article: the TEF6686 portable radio receiver, and the Radio Data System (RDS) as now used by many FM stations which allow the station ID to be determined automatically by the receiver..

3. Remotely located OVH member, Fred / N3KVV from near Hegins, Penna. made it to the Kutztown Antique Radio Show last weekend. He just happened to be filmed by one of the Youtubers there documenting the event (screen capture to the right). Where is Kutztown? North of Reading, PA; a drive there from Manassas is a little more than 3 hours, northeast of Lancaster. Fred reports this is a two day, well attended event; it has been taking place for many years now and is one of the largest such events on the East Coast. It takes place in 50,000 sq.ft. facility and includes a fair amount of ham radio items.



Kutztown Antique Radio and Electronics Swap Spring 2025
2,020 views · 1 day ago · ...more

The Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club

Is hosting a

HAM RADIO TAIL GATE PARTY

Saturday, June 7th, 2025

7 am to 1 pm

Across from Signal Hill Park in Manassas Park

General Admission \$8 per person over 14

\$20 per vehicle to set up (includes one admission ticket)

All attendees will park in the field

38° 45.2710'N, 77° 26.2800'W

Signal Hill Park address is 9300 Signal View Dr. Manassas Park, VA – the field is located on Signal View Drive across the street from the park entrance

The field is on the east side of Signal View Drive just past the National Monument for the First Battle of Manassas



More information www.w4ovh.net

Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club

Cordially invites the public to attend

ARRL FIELD DAY



www.arrl.org

2:00 PM Saturday, June 28th - 2:00 PM Sunday, 29th

Nokesville Park, 12560 Aden Road, Nokesville, VA

Rain or Shine! We will be under the big pavilion. Come on out and tune in the world!

Saturday Night Pot Luck Dinner! Bring a favorite dish to share, dinner around 5 pm! This is a family event!

Balloon Launch Saturday afternoon

All are welcome!

Any questions; please see our webpage at www.w4ovh.net or Facebook Ole Virginia Hams W4OVH

GPS Coordinates Latitude 38.6853961°, Longitude:-77.5772117°
We are at the large Pavilion just past all the baseball fields.